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MEMORANDUM TO: Projects Review Committee

FROM: Assistant Director for Operations

REFERENCE: 1. Memorandum to Projects Review Committee from Assistant Director for Operations dated 5 December 1946;
2. Minutes of Meeting of Project Review Committee held 11 December 1946.

SUBJECT: Relocation of FBIS West Coast Monitoring Station

25X1A 1. On 11 December 1946 the Projects Review Committee considered the proposed transfer of the FBIS monitoring station from its present location in [redacted] The Committee decided at this meeting to delay final action on this proposal until a thorough survey had been made of other possible reception sites in [redacted]

25X1A 2. As a result of this decision, [redacted] FBIS, and [redacted] P & A, together with [redacted] FBIS [redacted] engineer, went to [redacted] to survey several reception sites on the central and southern coast which had been suggested by the Army, Navy and War Assets Administration. 25X1A 25X1A 25X1A

3. Nine possible locations were examined and rated on the basis of long term reception suitability, cost, and accessibility. Attached tabs "A" to "I" describe each location and indicate their relative suitability.

25X1A 4. The results of this survey indicate that [redacted] is the most satisfactory location. The original Army Engineers' cost estimate for construction of [redacted] reported in my memorandum of 5 December 1946 was much too high. A more realistic figure would be approximately [redacted] This reduction makes the overall cost of the [redacted] site more justifiable. 25X1A 25X1A

25X1A 5. The only government-owned site that is a possibility is Fort [redacted] Its principal disadvantages are its Northerly location, the lack of buildings on the site and the problem of bringing in from some distance utilities such as water and power.

6. All other locations were rejected because they failed to meet one or more of the following requirements:

- a. Radio receiving characteristics.
- b. No buildings available and/or high cost of new construction.

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25X1A

7. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- a. That the [] be selected as the FBIB west coast monitoring station on the assumption that the area can be leased for not more than [] per year and the cost of new construction will not exceed [] 25X1A
- b. That OC and F & A be directed to proceed without delay to obtain a long term lease, start construction and complete the move.

25X1A

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Brigadier General, USA
Assistant Director for Operations

OO/FB

JAP:mlp

3 February 1947

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[REDACTED] 25X1A

LOCATION: [REDACTED]

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AREA: Total area approximately 450 acres. Less than 100 acres available for FBIB installation. Government land.

ADVANTAGES: 1. Probably good reception except for interference from the harmonics and overmodulation of powerful Mexican Broadcasting stations to the South and Southwest, the border being less than fifteen miles away.
2. Far enough South to obtain the maximum coverage of Latin American programs.

DISADVANTAGES: 1. Land available is likely to be inadequate.
2. Removal of various permanent structures and some quonset huts from the area will be necessary.
3. Plans of the Army for a two year amphibious training program.
4. Crowded conditions in San Diego will make housing of personnel difficult.
5. Relocation of power lines in the area will be necessary.

REMARKS: While in general this area seems to present a fair to good reception point and probably could be made available, the objections above make it less attractive than either [REDACTED]

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LOCATION: On the peninsula west of [REDACTED]

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ALL: We were advised that none was available.

ADVANTAGES: None

DISADVANTAGES: 1. Reception becoming increasingly worse as area develops.
2. Land has been ceded to Maritime Commission.
3. Housing conditions acute.

REASON: The Navy decided to move its receiving point because of increasing interference and high noise level.

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[REDACTED]

25X1A LOCATION:

[REDACTED]

ACRON: Exact acreage unknown, but much flat land is available.

ADVANTAGES: 1. Considerable flat land is available.
2. Some buildings could be moved from camp area for our use.

DISADVANTAGES: 1. Land at present covered with barracks and warehouses.
2. The Veterans Administration has plans for the construction of extensive hospital facilities which will result in radio interference from x-ray and diathermy equipment.
3. Several active airfields in the vicinity bring planes over daily many flying but 500 feet above ground as they approach or leave the field.
4. The Immigration Department has taken over part of this area.
5. Transportation of personnel would pose a problem.

REMARKS: The lack of good receiving conditions preclude this a possible choice for a receiving station.

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LOCATION:

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AREA:

ADVANTAGES:

1. Far removed from industrial developments.
2. Basically, radio reception should be satisfactory.

DISADVANTAGES:

1. The entire area, with the exception of the area noted above, is of a hilly and mountainous nature blocking reception in practically every direction.
2. The flat areas where reception would probably be satisfactory are rendered unsuitable by a main highway running thru its entire length as does a high voltage transmission line a 1000 or so feet to the west.
3. No buildings are available, thus requiring the construction of the entire project.
4. Housing and transportation would be a problem.

REMARKS:

While this is a vast area, only a small percentage of the area can be considered and this area, unfortunately, is totally undeveloped and is handicapped by roads and transmission lines rendering the area unsatisfactory.

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LOCATION:

AREA:

Exact acreage unknown but very sizeable areas of flat land are available.

ADVANTAGES:

Flat land overlooking the ocean is available.

DISADVANTAGES:

1. Radio reception is considered bad by local officers.
2. The area is isolated from housing areas.
3. Much development work would be necessary.

REMARKS:

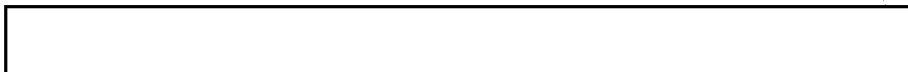
This seems a very doubtful place in which to settle.

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LOCATION:



AREA:

Available acreage is between 100 and 150 acres in North-western corner of the base.

ADVANTAGES:

1. The area generally is known to be good from a radio reception point of view.
2. Certain materials, such as 75' antenna poles would probably be available.

DISADVANTAGES:

1. Much general activity in nearby areas as well as mobile equipment in use which would produce interference.
2. Future activity is an unknown factor.
3. Available land is at present in use.

REMARKS:

The overall picture for radio reception on the base is not good, although land to the North of the base would probably be very good from a reception standpoint. This land, however, is not government owned but rather under lease and is at present being returned to the owners.

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[REDACTED]

25X1A

LOCATION:

[REDACTED]

AREA:

Available, approximately 750 acres. Government land.

ADVANTAGES:

1. Large areas of flat land are available.
2. Radio reception should be good in all directions.

DISADVANTAGES: 1. Somewhat further North than we would like to locate and would cut considerable time from Asiatic coverage. Some difference would be noted in reception from Latin America due to the greater distance of this location [REDACTED]

2. Area totally undeveloped, necessitating construction of the entire project.
 - (a) Water mains are one-half to three quarters of a mile away.
 - (b) Distribution lines are some distance away.
3. Possible interference from a transmission line although we might be able to locate far enough away to avoid this interference.

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REMARKS:

Of all the areas we visited where government land is available, this seems to be the most promising from the point of view of radio reception aside from the limitation of being too far north. Its chief objection is the matter of isolation resulting in high cost of construction along with such problems as water, power and other utilities. Due to expansion at [REDACTED] the matter of housing would be a definite problem since there is a shortage of homes at the present time.

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LOCATION:

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REMARKS: No flat land available. Camp is government land.

ADVANTAGES: None.

DISADVANTAGES: 1. All of the area is hilly land.
2. Surrounded by mountains blocking radio reception from all directions.
3. Inaccessibility.

REMARKS: This area is entirely unsuitable for a radio intercept station.

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LOCATION: [REDACTED]

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AREA: 148 acres, privately owned.

ADVANTAGES:

1. Tests conducted on location indicate the reception is most satisfactory.
2. The record of reception during the war indicated that it was unusually good, in fact superior to any other known location.
3. Housing while somewhat difficult, seems less acute than most places.
4. The present building was especially built for radio reception and has all the ducts, trenches and conduit needed. The radio room itself is especially screened to minimize pick-up and interference.
5. The addition to the existing building needed should not be costly as no special conduits, etc. will be necessary. The Army engineers estimate of [REDACTED] for the construction was far too high and should be more on the order of [REDACTED]. The engineers in [REDACTED] discussed this point with us and on the basis of [REDACTED] the cost per square foot ran around [REDACTED] of that office later indicated that costs usually run around [REDACTED] per square foot for high grade construction. The additional construction necessary at [REDACTED] would be for Editorial, Translation, and Administrative space and should be of relatively low cost per square foot. The outbuilding could be a quonset hut costing about [REDACTED].

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- DISADVANTAGES: 1. The property is not government owned and would have to be leased, but [REDACTED] conversation with a representative of the owner left the impression that it could be leased for a reasonable figure that would be on the order of [REDACTED] or less.

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REMARKS:

From all available sources we could find no likelihood of industrial development in the immediate area and after weighing all the factors seems to be by far the best location. It should be much less costly as all the other locations would call for considerable outlays for construction.

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